



Policy Brief.....July 12, 2004

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H.R. 4755—Legislative Branch Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2005

**H.R. 4755—Legislative Branch Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2005
 (Kingston)**

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Monday, July 12th, under a structured rule (H.Res. 707), which passed the House last week and makes two amendments in order (summarized below).

Summary:

BY THE NUMBERS:

Budget Authority in Thousands of Dollars

	FY '04 Enacted	FY '05 Request	FY '05 House
Appropriations	2,751,958	3,144,266	2,749,522
<i>Emergency Spending</i>	0	0	0
GRAND TOTAL	2,751,958	3,144,266	2,749,522

Note: These figures do not include Senate-only items.

The committee bill is:

**\$2.4 million or 0.09% below last year; and
 \$394.7 million or 12.55% below the request.**

The bill is within the 302(b) allocation for the Legislative Branch Subcommittee and thus complies with the Budget Act. Note: the numbers above are provided by the Appropriations Committee. The Budget Committee calculates the FY05 bill to be about \$1 million more than what the Appropriations Committee reports.

H.R. 4755 includes \$112 million in mandatory spending for FY2005 and contains no funding rescissions.

ADMINISTRATIVE LANGUAGE OF NOTE:

Security Fence: Prohibits funds in this bill from being used to study, design, plan, or otherwise further the construction or consideration of a fence to enclose the Capitol Grounds.

Staff Fitness Facility: The funding in the bill for House Office Buildings includes \$3.0 million for a staff fitness facility (to be built by a private entity after a competitive contracting procedure). Support of the facility would be financed by fees on users of the facility.

Hybrid and Alternative Fuels Vehicles: Encourages House Members to use hybrid electric and alternatively fueled vehicles when using vehicles for official travel, “as the use of these vehicles will help to move our Nation toward the use of a hydrogen fuel cell vehicle and reduce our dependence on foreign oil.”

Student Loan Repayment: Authorizes the Office of Compliance to agree (as a recruitment or retention incentive) to repay all or a portion of any student loan previously taken out by an Office employee (up to \$40,000 total per employee and no more than \$6,000 per year per employee).

Capitol Power Plant: Directs the Architect of the Capitol (after approval from the House and Senate Appropriations Committees) to enter into a competitively-sourced contract with a private entity or the management and operation of the Capitol Power Plant.

Excess MRA Funds for Deficit Reduction: The bill continues language carried in previous years providing that excess funds in the Members Representation Allowance Account shall be used for deficit reduction.

Telecommunications Revolving Fund: Creates in the U.S. Treasury a Net Expenses of Telecommunications Revolving Fund, consisting of funds deposited by the Chief Administrative Officer of the House from amounts provided by Legislative Branch offices to purchase, lease, obtain, and maintain the data and voice telecommunications services and equipment located in such offices.

Private Vehicles: Prohibits funds in this bill from being used to maintain or otherwise care for private vehicles.

Voluntary Separation Incentive Payments: Authorizes the head of any office in the Legislative Branch (other than Senate offices) to establish a voluntary separation incentive payments program to encourage employees to voluntarily leave their jobs under certain circumstances. Payments could not exceed \$25,000 and would have to be repaid by the employees if re-employed with the federal government within five years of the separation.

Compensation Limitation: Prevents any Legislative Branch employee from being paid more than a Member of the House or Senate (excluding in-kind benefits and related payments).

FUNDING SUMMARIES:

Dollars in Thousands

	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2005	Cmte. Vs.	Cmte. Vs.	Cmte. Vs.	Cmte. Vs.
	Enacted	Request	Cmte	FY 2004	Request	FY 2004	Request
House of Representatives							
Office of the Speaker.....	2,630	2,708	2,708	78	0	2.97%	0.00%
Majority Leader.....	1,965	2,027	2,027	62	0	3.16%	0.00%
Minority Leader.....	2,756	2,840	2,840	84	0	3.05%	0.00%
Majority Whip.....	1,684	1,741	1,741	57	0	3.38%	0.00%
Minority Whip.....	1,259	1,303	1,303	44	0	3.49%	0.00%
Speaker Floor Activities.....	460	470	470	10	0	2.17%	0.00%
Republican Steering Cmte.....	862	881	881	19	0	2.20%	0.00%
Republican Conference.....	1,448	1,500	1,500	52	0	3.59%	0.00%
Democratic Steering & Policy Cmte.....	1,542	1,589	1,589	47	0	3.05%	0.00%
Democratic Caucus.....	768	792	792	24	0	3.13%	0.00%
Nine Minority Employees.....	1,380	1,409	1,409	29	0	2.10%	0.00%
Training & Development Programs.....	580	580	580	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
Cloakroom Personnel.....	808	838	838	30	0	3.71%	0.00%
Subtotal House Leadership.....	18,142	18,678	18,678	536	0	2.95%	0.00%
Members' Representational Allowance (MRA).....	514,454	529,258	521,195	6,741	-8,063	1.31%	-1.52%
Standing Cmtes (except Appropriations).....	102,203	114,955	114,299	12,096	-656	11.84%	-0.57%
Appropriations Cmte.....	24,926	25,524	24,926	0	-598	0.00%	-2.34%
Office of the Clerk.....	19,452	20,553	20,534	1,082	-19	5.56%	-0.09%
Office of the Sergeant at Arms.....	5,471	5,887	5,879	408	-8	7.46%	-0.14%
Office of Chief Administrative Officer.....	111,141	121,699	116,034	4,893	-5,665	4.40%	-4.65%
Office of the Inspector General.....	3,847	4,022	3,986	139	-36	3.61%	-0.90%
Office of Emergency Preparedness.....	5,200	6,000	1,000	-4,200	-5,000	-80.77%	-83.33%
Office of the General Counsel.....	926	962	962	36	0	3.89%	0.00%
Office of the Chaplain.....	153	155	155	2	0	1.31%	0.00%
Office of the Parliamentarian.....	1,560	1,673	1,673	113	0	7.24%	0.00%
Office of the Law Revision Counsel.....	2,263	2,346	2,346	83	0	3.67%	0.00%
Office of the Legislative Counsel.....	6,233	6,721	6,721	488	0	7.83%	0.00%
Corrections Calendar Office.....	0	0	0	0	0		
Office of Interparliamentary Affairs.....	500	687	687	187	0	37.40%	0.00%
Other Authorized Employees.....	150	156	156	6	0	4.00%	0.00%
Supplies, materials, admin costs, tort claims.....	3,975	4,618	4,350	375	-268	9.43%	-5.80%
Official Mail.....	410	410	410	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
Gov't Contributions.....	186,783	201,350	199,600	12,817	-1,750	6.86%	-0.87%
Misc Items.....	690	690	690	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
Total, House of Representatives.....	1,008,479	1,066,344	1,044,281	35,802	-22,063	3.55%	-2.07%
Joint Items							
Joint Economic Cmte.....	3,988	4,139	4,139	151	0	3.79%	0.00%
Joint Congressional Comm on Inaugural Ceremonies..	1,250	0	0	-1,250	0	-100.00%	
Joint Cmte on Taxation.....	8,064	8,476	8,433	369	-43	4.58%	-0.51%
Office of the Attending Physician.....	2,223	2,528	2,528	305	0	13.72%	0.00%
Capitol Guide Service.....	3,511	3,844	3,844	333	0	9.48%	0.00%
Statements of Appropriations.....	30	30	30	0	0	0.00%	0.00%

Capitol Police Salaries and Expenses.....	219,795	291,641	232,328	12,533	-59,313	5.70%	-20.34%
Office of Compliance.....	2,242	2,950	2,421	179	-529	7.98%	-17.93%
Congressional Budget Office.....	33,620	35,455	34,790	1,170	-665	3.48%	-1.88%
Architect of the Capitol--Gen'l Admin.....	76,598	89,245	79,581	2,983	-9,664	3.89%	-10.83%
Capitol Building.....	28,021	32,239	18,185	-9,836	-14,054	-35.10%	-43.59%
Capitol Grounds.....	6,846	8,080	7,033	187	-1,047	2.73%	-12.96%
House Office Buildings.....	62,445	105,675	65,130	2,685	-40,545	4.30%	-38.37%
Capitol Power Plant, Net.....	81,062	63,376	56,139	-24,923	-7,237	-30.75%	-11.42%
Library of Congress Buildings & Grounds.....	38,928	160,678	34,783	-4,145	-125,895	-10.65%	-78.35%
Capitol Police Building and Grounds.....	3,289	40,292	4,883	1,594	-35,409	48.46%	-87.88%
Botanic Garden.....	6,152	11,581	5,932	-220	-5,649	-3.58%	-48.78%
Capitol Visitor Center, Total.....	48,621	8,469	0	-48,621	-8,469	-100.00%	-100.00%
Library of Congress Salaries & Expenses, Net.....	361,899	387,581	366,875	4,976	-20,706	1.37%	-5.34%
Copyright Office, Salaries and Expenses, Net.....	18,516	20,179	20,041	1,525	-138	8.24%	-0.68%
Congressional Research Service.....	91,185	100,934	96,385	5,200	-4,549	5.70%	-4.51%
Books for the Blind & Handicapped.....	51,401	53,937	60,187	8,786	6,250	17.09%	11.59%
Government Printing Office -- Congressional Printing....	90,573	88,800	88,800	-1,773	0	-1.96%	0.00%
Gov't Printing Office -- Salaries & Expenses.....	34,253	33,033	32,524	-1,729	-509	-5.05%	-1.54%
Gov't Printing Office Revolving Fund.....	9,941	25,000	0	-9,941	-25,000	-100.00%	-100.00%
Gov't Printing Office Inspector General.....	0	4,225	0	0	-4,225		-100.00%
General Accounting Office, Net.....	457,606	480,535	473,500	15,894	-7,035	3.47%	-1.46%
Payment to the Open World Leadership Ctr Trust Fund.	13,420	15,000	6,750	-6,670	-8,250	-49.70%	-55.00%
GRAND TOTAL (excluding Senate-only items).....	2,751,958	3,144,266	2,749,522	-2,436	-394,744	-0.09%	-12.55%

Amendments Made in Order under the Rule (H.Res. 707) (each amendment debatable for ten minutes):

Holt: Increases the salaries and expenses account of the General Accounting Office (GAO) by \$30 million. Although the amendment text does not specify what the GAO would have to use this increase for, Rep. Holt's office reports that the intention is the creation within GAO of a Center for Science and Technology Assessment. Offsets this increase with two \$15-million reductions: one from the Architect of the Capitol's general administration account and one from the congressional printing and binding account of the Government Printing Office.

Hefley: Provides that each amount appropriated or otherwise made available in this bill that is not required to be appropriated or otherwise made available by a provision of law is reduced by 1%.

Committee Action: On July 1, 2004, the House Appropriations Committee reported the legislation to the full House.

Constitutional Authority: The Appropriations Committee, in House Report 108-577, cites constitutional authority in Article I, Section 9, Clause 7 ("No money shall be drawn from the Treasury but in consequence of Appropriations made by law").

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